



BOX NON-FEE
AMENDMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M.D. Vrbanac et al.

Attorney Docket No.: WEYE118587/23109A

Application No.: 10/052,230

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: January 17, 2002

Examiner: P. Chin

Title: GRANULAR POLYSACCHARIDE HAVING
ENHANCED SURFACE CHARGE

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

May 20, 2002

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/421,621, filed October 19, 1999 (now abandoned). This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to advance the prosecution by way of further response to the final Office Action dated July 17, 2001 (Paper No. 6) in the parent application. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9, as follows:

However, by adding a surface charge to the raw starch particles, it is possible to dramatically increase starch retention in a web. Such increased starch retention is achieved through the use of retention aids that form a bridging attachment between the charged starch particles and fiber surfaces. Adding charge to raw starch has been previously accomplished by chemical modification of starch through the covalent attachment of certain functional groups, for example, quaternary amine groups, to the starch. In papermaking, these chemically modified starches are typically fully cooked and then added in the paper machine's wet end. Such a chemical modification process adds considerable cost to the starch and, furthermore, does not

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